

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for use in a database system in which a user defined type is defined by a class in managed code and comprises a plurality of fields, each field having a respective data type, the method comprising:

defining another class in managed code that represents an XML data type;

defining at least one of the plurality of fields of the user defined type as having the XML data type and associating said at least one field of the instance of the user defined type with an XML Schema that defines a content model for the XML data in the field, and

defining at least one other of said plurality of fields as having a different data type;

instantiating the class defining the user defined type to create an object of the user defined type, wherein the object holds XML data in said at least one field and holds data of said different data type in said at least one other field; and

persisting the object within the database store.

2. (Previously presented) The method recited in claim 1, wherein the managed code class that represents the XML data type comprises at least one constructor and at least one method that returns an object through which the XML data in said at least one field of the persisted object of the user defined type can be retrieved.

3. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 1, further comprising adding a method to the managed code class definition of the user defined type to implement a behavior on said at least one field of the user defined type.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The method recited in claim 4, wherein said associating step comprises annotating the managed code class definition of the user defined type with an attribute that identifies the XML Schema on a server that hosts the database store.

6. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 1, further comprising at least one of the steps of:

querying the object persisted within the database store; and
modifying the object persisted within the database store.

7. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a runtime that provides managed code execution, the runtime comprising:

a class in managed code that represents an XML data type; and

another class in managed code that defines a user defined type, the class definition for the user defined type comprising a plurality of fields, each field having a respective data type, at least one of said plurality of fields being defined as having the XML data type and at least one other of said plurality of fields being defined as having a different data type, wherein said managed code class that defines the user defined type further comprises an association between said at least one field of the instance of the user defined type that contains XML data and an XML Schema that defines a content model for the XML data in the field; and

a database store that instantiates the class defining the user defined type to create an object of the user defined type and that stores the object, whereby said at least one field of the stored object contains XML data and said at least one other field of the object contains data of said different data type.

8. (Previously Presented) The system recited in claim 7, wherein the managed code class that represents the XML data type comprises at least one constructor and at least one method that returns an object through which the XML data in the field of the stored object of the user defined type can be retrieved.

9. (Original) The system recited in claim 7, wherein the managed code class that defines the user defined type further comprises a method that implements behavior on the field of the instance of the user defined type that contains XML data.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) The system recited in claim 10, wherein the association comprises an attribute applied to the field within the managed code class that defines the user defined type, the attribute identifying the XML Schema on a server that hosts the database store.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having program code stored thereon, said program code causing a computer to:

- define a first class in managed code that represents an XML data type;
- define a second class in managed code that defines a user defined type, the second class comprising a plurality of fields, each field having a respective data type, at least one of the fields within the second class being defined as having the XML data type and being associated with an XML Schema that defines a content model for the XML data in the field, and at least one other of said plurality of fields being defined as having a different data type;
- instantiate the class defining the user defined type to create an object of the user defined type, wherein said at least one field of the object holds XML data and said at least one other field of the object holds data of said different data type; and
- persist the object within a database store.

13. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium recited in claim 12, wherein the first class comprises at least one constructor and at least one method that returns an object through which the XML data in the field of the persisted object of the user defined type can be retrieved.

14. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium recited in claim 12, wherein the second class further comprises a method that implements behavior on said at least one field of the user defined type.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The computer readable medium recited in claim 15, wherein said at least one field is associated with said XML Schema by an annotation to the definition of said

at least one field in the second class of an attribute that identifies the XML Schema on a server that hosts the database store.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium recited in claim 12, wherein said program code further causes the computer to:

- query the object persisted within the database store; and
- modify the object persisted within the database store.